

information of a header section of said packet and (i) said payload error portion is configured to store error check information of a payload area of said packet.

6. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 5, wherein said one or more downstream nodes is further configured to perform a discard of said [faulty upstream node] packet upon detecting an error.

10. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 1 [8], further comprising a data payload.

13. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 1, further comprising an identity portion configured to identify a destination node.

15. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 14 [17], wherein said label portion comprises a MPLS label portion.

[Please add the following new claims:]

18. (NEW) The packet according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

19. (NEW) The packet according to claim 1, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to store error check information of a header section of said packet and (ii) said payload error portion is configured to store error check information of a payload area of said packet.

20. (NEW) The packet according to claim 5, wherein said one or more downstream nodes is further configured to perform a discard of said packet upon detecting an error.

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**REMARKS**

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 24, 2000.